Snusmumrik no Koibito

Volume 2 chapter 5

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#5
Heart

EVERY-BODY!
FLUTTER
AH?
!
NONO ...?!
IS, IS IT STRANGE?

After the new year, she had a meeting with a psychiatrist.

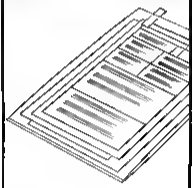
Nono decided to undergo surgery to become a woman in order to overcome his gender identity disorder.

NONO! WE ARE GOING TO BE LATE FOR A MOVIE

This is called a real life test. It is used to determine whether or not a patient's decision to transition will waver and if their heart feels comfortable with the change.

Nono wore a skirt and had long hair extensions added.

The first stage consists of having the disorder diagnosed and confirmed by a professional psychiatrist. After that is the second stage, when hormone treatments begin



AH, YES!
STARTLED
OH MY, NAO-CHAN, ARE YOU ON A DATE?
YEAH,
I'M SORRY
TAP TAP
OH MY, SHE IS A CUTE LADY.
PULL
RECENTLY, WOMEN HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO RECOGNISE NONO
YEAH!

She received a large number of name cards from celebrity agencies.
When Nono acts like a girl, many people try to come on to her.
Wherever he went, nobody noticed that he was a boy.
I'D LIKE ONE CARAMEL POPCORN AND TWO SMALL COKES.

Kanami!!
...
AH
IT'S BEEN A REALLY LONG TIME!
NO WAY I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT
No, she didn't recognize hmm.
Is she going to recognize Nomo?
I'M MEETING A LOT OF BOYS NOWADAYS, JUST LIKE YOU
YEAH, I AM
ARE YOU ON A DATE?

HEH—!
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU
MEN AND WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT. YOU SHOULD CHERISH YOURSELF MORE.
A LOT?
...
HAVE A NICE TIME AT YOUR DATE.
CHATTER
CHATTER
why are they sitting next to us so coincidentally...?
But..

Am I
jealous?
YES
THIS
No way.
Yes—

NAO-CHAN, IT'S SNOW.
YEAH
HAA

I'm dating Nono.
I feel a little guilty.
IT'S OKAY.
NAO-CHAN IS SICK.
YOU WANT TO BE THE MOST LOVED PERSON IN THE WORLD
Did he find out already?
LOOK, NAO-CHAN.
ABOUT ME,

I THINK I'M GOING TO STOP ATTENDING SCHOOL.
I DON'T WANT TO WEAR A MALE SCHOOL UNIFORM ANYMORE.
HUH?
WHY?
YOU'RE PROBABLY THINK I'M JUST DOING WHATEVER I WANT
AND LAUGH AT ME BECAUSE IT'S STUPID.
THAT'S OKAY. GO AHEAD.

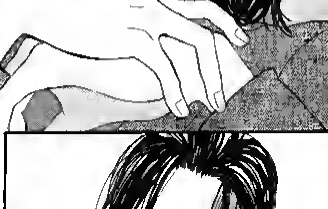
SHE STARTED THE REAL LIFE TEST NOW, SO IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE IF SHE IS 'A GUY AT SCHOOL' AND 'A GIRL AT HOME'.
YEAH, DEFINITELY
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE SOLUTION.
YEAH
SO NONO DOESN'T WANT TO WEAR THE MALE SCHOOL UNIFORM ANYMORE?
WE SHOULD LET NONO WEAR THE FEMALE SCHOOL UNIFORM

PFFFT
THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD THINK!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME—
KANAMI'S CRINKLY SMILE
IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE WE MET. I'M SHOWING IT TO YOU AS A SPECIAL SERVICE.

YOU ELIMINATED LOTS OF BOY-FRIENDS?
IT'S ELIMINA-TION
RIGHT!
STIR
STIR

BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO REMEMBER ME

I THOUGHT YOU SAID I WAS ROMANTI-CALLY INSENSI-TIVE
WHAT!



YOU'RE AS LAME AS EVER
BUT YOU'RE LIKE A ROSE WITH THORNS THAT WARN YOU NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE.

THAT'S RIGHT YOU'RE VERY BEAUTIFUL.

I'M WAITING FOR A GUY LIKE THAT.
SOMEONE WHO WILL SMILE AND EMBRACE ME WHILE SAYING THAT IT DOESN'T HURT...
I WANT SOMEONE TO TIGHTLY EMBRACE ME,
BUT I CAN SEE IT NOW
ME, FOR EXAMPLE?
BUT I HAVE THORNS AND I'M AFRAID THAT I'LL HURT SOMEONE WITH THEM SOMEDAY AND CAUSE BLOOD TO BE SPILT.
WH-WHAT!
YES.
YOU, FOR EXAMPLE.
CONTINUE YOUR STORY ABOUT NONO-CHAN AND THE REST OF YOU.

Soon it became spring and we all became 3rd years.
Tetsuya's father joined him shortly after and they spoke to the PTA* together.
Kiyoto confirmed Nono's decision to transition and began to convince the teachers.
*PARENT'S AND TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION
NOSAKA NOZOMI-KUN HAS
GENDER IDENTITY DISORDER
Whether or not Nono could come to school in a girl's uniform was to be decided through a vote.
There was a whole school assembly in the auditorium.

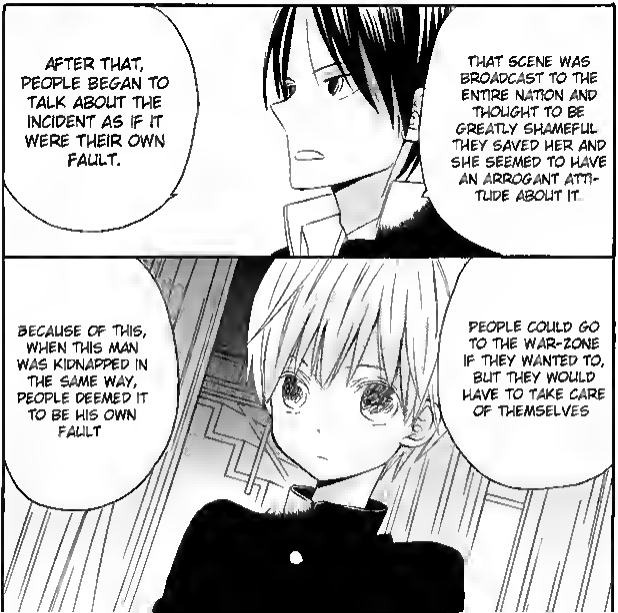
What's that?
Huh?
It's like serve a woman.
Okama?
I WANT YOU TO IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE IF YOU WERE IN THE SAME POSITION.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
MMM, YEAH.
IF THINGS CONTINUE THIS WAY, KIYOTO AND NONO ARE GOING TO BE BULLIED.
I'm going to hit them!
ARGH, THEY SHOULD BE LISTENING TO KIYOTO PROPERLY.
AH?
RIGHT, NAOKI! YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING!

NAOKI WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING.
SCHOOL PRESIDENT!
TETSUYA!
I don't have anything to say.
PLEASE COME UP TO THE STAGE.
THEN 3RD YEAR, KOMURA NAOKI-KUN.

It can't be helped
I should become a Pierrot for Nomo.
What is this really~
CHATTER
CHATTER

A MAN
WAS DECAPI-TATED BY A TERRORIST.

I THINK YOU SAW THE NEWS, BUT ONE OF THE WOMEN WAS SEEN CHEWING GUM ON CAMERA WHEN SHE WAS RESCUED.
PRIOR THIS INCIDENT, THREE JAPANESE CITIZENS WERE KIDNAPPED AND DETAINED IN IRAQ.
OUR PRIME MINISTER ABANDONED HIM AND SAID THAT IT WAS THE MAN'S OWN FAULT.
THE GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED A RESCUE MISSION AND SAVED THEM


AFTER THAT, PEOPLE BEGAN TO TALK ABOUT THE INCIDENT AS IF IT WERE THEIR OWN FAULT.
THAT SCENE WAS BROADCAST TO THE ENTIRE NATION AND THOUGHT TO BE GREATLY SHAMEFUL. THEY SAVED HER AND SHE SEEMED TO HAVE AN ARROGANT ATTITUDE ABOUT IT.
BECAUSE OF THIS, WHEN THIS MAN WAS KIDNAPPED IN THE SAME WAY, PEOPLE DEEMED IT TO BE HIS OWN FAULT
PEOPLE COULD GO TO THE WAR-ZONE IF THEY WANTED TO, BUT THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES

IN HIS LAST VIDEO, HE SAID, "I'M SORRY I WANT TO GO BACK TO JAPAN."
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN SOMEONE TELLS US SOMETHING IS OUR OWN FAULT?
WE'RE YOUNG! WE'RE BRIMMING WITH HOPE AND CURIOSITY.
WILL EVERYTHING BE OVER THE MOMENT WE MAKE A MISTAKE AND GET TOLD IT'S OUR OWN FAULT?
AT THE TIME, JAPAN WAS TRYING TO EARN FAVOURS WITH THE USA AND STILL HAD THE JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCE STATIONED NEAR THE WAR-ZONE THE YOUNG MAN WAS ABANDONED AND LEFT TO DIE

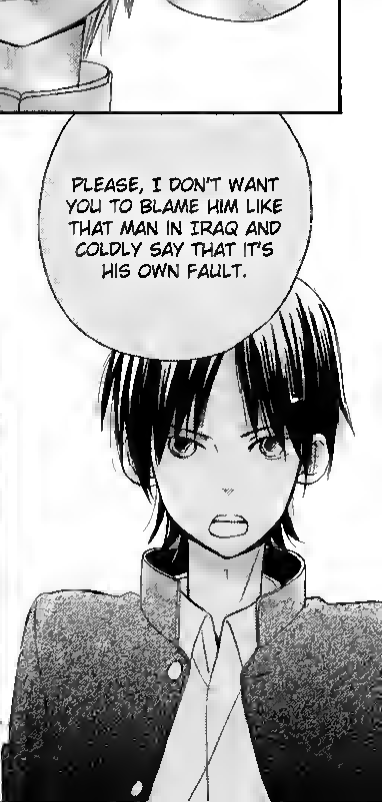
HE WAS-
NO, WE WERE ABANDONED
DUE TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE ADULTS OF OUR SOCIETY
IN THAT VERY MOMENT, EVERYTHING WAS OVER FOR OUR COUNTRY
MY FRIEND, NOSAKA NOZOMI, HAS THE BODY OF A BOY

THINK ABOUT IT. HE'S GOING TO HAVE HIS PENIS CUT OFF.
HE IS CURRENTLY GETTING COUNSELLING AND PREPARING TO UNDERGO SURGERY TO BECOME A GIRL.
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING REALLY SCARY?
BUT NOSAKA STILL PLANS ON GOING THROUGH WITH IT.
HIS HEART IS THAT OF A GIRL.
NOSAKA IS HAVING A HARD TIME STAYING IN A MAN'S BODY.
HE IS HAVING A HARD TIME WEARING A MALE SCHOOL UNIFORM.

NOBAKA WANTS TO BE A GIRL.
NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS ARE GOING TO BE IN THE FUTURE, NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF DOUBTS AND FEELINGS HE WILL GO THROUGH, EVEN IF HE HAS TO WITHSTAND THE PAIN OF HAVING HIS PENIS CUT OFF,

CLAP

SEX CLAP SX
パチ
パチ
パチ


PLEASE, I DON'T WANT YOU TO BLAME HIM LIKE THAT MAN IN IRAQ AND COLDLY SAY THAT IT'S HIS OWN FAULT.

パチ
パチ
パチ
パチ
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SFX: CLAP SX
...
EVERY-
BODY!

It became the legendary female school uniform

I faced the whole school and said that this would be the first and last time something like this would happen.

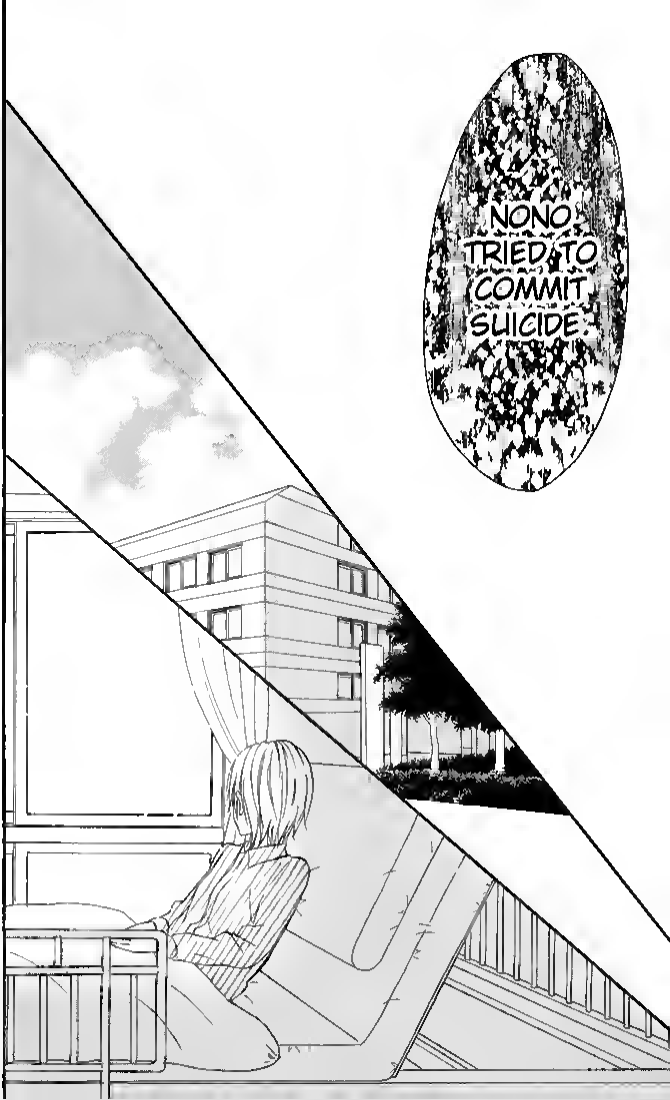
There would only be one clothing like this in the entire world.

HUH, IT'S NOT GOOD?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!
UWA!
OH~
UWA!
REALLY?! IT'S THAT KID AT THE MORNING ASSEMBLY?
UWA
YOU GUYS SHOULDN'T GET SO CLOSE!
SWISH

That day, Nono had turned from being our own Idol

to every-body's Idol.

SFX DING DONG
MM
It's noisy ...
SFX DING DONG
SFX SLEEP
SFX DING DONG
But we didn't understand Nono at all.
SFX DING DONG 2X
GOOD MORN-ING
YAWN
MM?
NAOKI I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING


NONO TRIED TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

NONO
...
I'M GOING TO BE DISCHARGED TOMORROW.
IT'S NOTHING.
EVERYBODY WAS WORRIED, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY IT'S NOTHING!!
IT'S NOT NOTHING!!

I'M PLAY-ACTING.
PLAY-ACTING?
I HAD A BODY CHECK EARLIER AND THE DOCTOR SAID I COULDN'T HAVE THE SEX CHANGE SURGERY WITH MY BODY.
HE MUST BE FAKING HOW DANGEROUS IT IS. HE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.
MOM SUDDENLY CHANGED HER MIND AND SAID I SHOULDN'T HAVE THE SURGERY

RIGHT.
NO WAY— BECAUSE OF THAT...?
IF THEY WERE GOING TO TELL ME "IT CAN BE DANGEROUS, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE THE SURGERY",
I WANTED TO SHOW THEM THAT I WOULD COMMIT SUI-CIDE
SO I TRIED TO SHOW THEM WHAT I WOULD DO.
I KNEW THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD DIE USING SLEEP-ING PILLS SOLD IN A PHAR-MACY.
SO YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO KILL YOUR-SELF?

IT WORKED.
DID YOU SEE MY MOM'S FACE? SHE'S GOING TO CHANGE HER MIND BECAUSE OF THIS
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH...!
ARE YOU EVEN HUMAN WHEN YOU'RE ACTING LIKE THIS...!
SFX SLAP
...

YOU'RE NOT NONO!
...
TETSU-CHAN, STOP IT.
TETSU-CHAN!
SFX DASH
TETSU-CHAN!!
SFX DASH
...
IS IT BECAUSE MY STOMACH IS DONE FOR?
MY BREATH SMELLS LIKE BLOOD. IT HAS A BIT OF A FISHY SMELL.
BREATHE

TETSU-CHAN HATES ME
AND HAS BRANDED ME AS A TERRIBLE PERSON
I THINK ANGER AND HATE ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS
DURING THE MORNING ASSEMBLY, NAO-CHAN TOLD ME THAT HAVING THE SURGERY IS MY "HOPE"
BUT THIS IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
IT'S NOT MY HOPE. IT'S EVERYTHING.

I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE AT ALL.
IF I DON'T HAVE THE SURGERY, I WON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO CONTINUE LIVING
I'M GOING TO BE SOMEONE WHO ISN'T ME.
I HAVE TO FIGHT.
FOR ME TO LIVE.
PLEASE BE KIND TO ME...
EVEN AFTER I HAVE SURGERY,
MOM,
EVERYBODY,
AND ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

I WANT TO LIVE AS ME.
NONO
AT THAT TIME
THE MON-STER
BREATHED OUT HE SMELLED LIKE FISH
SFX: LOOM 5X

...
NONO... WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...
They sound like
some clichéd words.
TIME STOPS THERE.
TETSUYA,
KIYOTO AND ME
CAN'T BE ADULTS.

THANK YOU
NAO-CHAN,
TETSU-CHAN... CRIED AT THE ROOFTOP OF THE HOSPITAL
...
RIGHT?
IT'S BECOMING PRETTY GOOD-

WHEN THEY TOOK OFF MY CLOTHES THOUGH, THEY MADE REALLY SURPRISED FACES
THEY KEPT SAYING I WAS CUTE OVER AND OVER AGAIN
IN THE MONSTER'S HAND WAS A SILVER KNIFE
I BECAME NAKED... I TREMBLED AND LOOKED UP AT THE MONSTER
NONO?
Maybe
...
his anxiety is...
THE MONSTER WAS DISAPPOINTED AND WENT AROUND THE PLACE IN CIRCLES

Is he remembering the kidnapping incident from when he was younger?
I WAS CONSTANTLY BEING KICKED AND HIT.
"IT'S UNPLEASANT."
"YOU ARE USELESS."
I WAS CONSTANTLY BEING HIT
AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS ABOUT ME THAT MADE THE MONSTER ANGRY.
THE MONSTER SPAT AT ME A LOT OF TIMES.
I THINK I BECAME ROTTEN BECAUSE OF THAT.
NONO!!
SHOULD I CALL THE NURSE?!

I SEE.
HE MIGHT'VE SEEN THROUGH NONO.
WHAT?
I THINK NONO ACTUALLY WANTS TO DIE.
I DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO WORRY ...
BUT I THINK IF IT'S REPEATED, THEN THE POSSIBILITY WILL INCREASE.
...AS I THOUGHT.
THE SURGERY IS THE ONLY WAY.
LET'S RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET!
AND FIND A HOSPITAL THAT WILL PERFORM THE SURGERY ON NONO!

I THINK THE REQUIREMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE TOO STRICT
THEY'RE TOO AFRAID OF DANGER AND ARE CONSTANTLY RAISING THE HURDLES
OF COURSE, WITH IT BEING A COSMETIC SURGERY, IT'LL PROBABLY BE REALLY EXPENSIVE,
BUT WE GET LOANS FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, NONO-CHAN?!
WE MADE NONO'S DREAM COME TRUE DURING THE REAL LIFE TEST BY GIVING HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO WEAR THE FEMALE SCHOOL UNIFORM WE CAN'T TAKE IT AWAY FROM HIM NOW
OKAY! THEN I'M GOING TO CONVINCE OUR FRIENDS WITH TETSUYA'S HELP AGAIN!

THREE ARROWS?
IF THREE ARROWS ARE PLACED NEXT TO EACH OTHER, EVEN THE IMPOSSIBLE CAN BECOME POSSIBLE.
TETSU-CHAN TOLD ME ONCE,
THE THREE OF US ARE ARROWS.
IF ONE OF US IS EVER GONE, WE CAN'T SAVE NONO.

EVERYTHING IS FOR NONO!